

ADDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a virtual Parish Council Meeting held on the 2 December 2020 at 20:00hrs

Present: Cllr. Mrs P. Garrett – Chairman, Cllrs. Mrs. A. Adams, Mrs. L. Chalk,
Mr. P. Robinson, Mrs. C. Short
County Councillor Sarah Hohler, Borough Councillor Ann Kemp and 1 member of the public

104/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Borough Councillor Piers Montague and Cllr. Macdonald-Gay.

105/20] DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

Cllr. Chalk declared a pecuniary interest in 111/20 (a).

106/20] MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

It was proposed and agreed that Chairman, sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 4 November 2020.

107/20] REPORTS

a) County Councillor – County Councillor Sarah Hohler has advised the Clerk that she has objected strongly to the fact KCC will not be replacing the flashing sign at the junction of the A20 and Trottiscliffe and feels KCC should fund a replacement. County Councillor Sarah Hohler has also requested a speed reduction on both the A20 and Trottiscliffe Road but has been advised that Kent Police do not believe there is an issue with speed on the A20 and have received no complaints. County Councillor Sarah Hohler has escalated this and has even offered to provide evidence and complaints received from residents on the A20 and the Parish Council. In an attempt to reduce the number of HGVs on local roads from the 31 December 2020 lorry drivers will be given a route they must adhere to and if they deviate from this route they will be fined £300. Members asked County Councillor Sarah Hohler for her support again in trying to find a solution for the school children from the village that are having to cross the busy A20, often in the dark to change buses following a change to the timetable. County Councillor Sarah Hohler advised that discussions with the bus company had been sidelined due to Covid and that this was another reason why she wanted a reduction in the speed limit on the A20. County Councillor Sarah Hohler offered to discuss this situation with County Councillor Harry Rayner who covers the neighbouring area to see what could be done.

20:17hrs County Councillor Sarah Hohler left the meeting

b) Borough Councillor – Borough Councillor Ann Kemp reported that T&MBC is still busy responding to enquiries and issues surrounding the pandemic. Members advised Borough Councillor Ann Kemp of their disappointment with the length of time Enforcement took to respond to the recent removal of trees to the land east of the B2015 and south of the A20. Borough Councillor Ann Kemp advised that there is to be a rebate for households that did not receive their garden waste bin when the new bin collection service started but there is to be no rebate for the poor service received generally at the start of the new contract and during the first Lockdown. It was suggested that the Clerk contacts Robert Styles at Waste Services for more information and that residents are encouraged to make individual claims for any compensation they feel they are due.

20:26hrs Borough Councillor Ann Kemp left the meeting

c) Kent Police – There was no crime in Addington in November. There has been a few incidents in neighbouring parishes of burglaries from outbuildings and a residential property was broken into in Ryarsh.

*The Chairman proposed and it was **resolved** to bring the agenda item Members of the Public forward*

110/20 MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

A member of the public expressed their deep concern about the impact of the replacement footbridge at East Street on local residents. The new design has resulted in serious overlooking of his and other properties in East Street from the ramp and the bridge itself. The colour of the new bridge is also an eyesore and does not blend in with the landscape. The resident has been in regular contact with Highways England and has requested a virtual meeting to discuss possible screening measures to include the planting of a number of mature trees. The member of public asked if the Parish Council could support the residents with this request.

108/20] MATTERS ARISING:

- 1] Monthly check of the defibrillator and any other update - The Clerk advised Members that both of the defibrillators in the village had been checked this month and an update provided on WebNos.
- 2] Speedwatch – A lack of volunteers means the scheme is unable to continue at the moment.
- 3] T&MBC Local Plan Development – The Local Hearing is still suspended. It is not officially known why it has been suspended although it is believed there has been a query on the legal compliance.
- 4] Reinstatement of the footbridge over the M20 – The new footbridge was craned into place last weekend. Further works to the ramps will be required and the project is expected to be completed January 2021. Works to reinstate the area will then follow. Cllr. Short and Robinson agreed to a meeting with a concerned local resident last weekend. The resident is concerned about overlooking from the bridge and would like some screening to be planted. Cllr. Garrett explained that the Parish Council has requested screening and mature planting at every meeting with Highways England. Members discussed and agreed that the Clerk should contact MP Tom Tugendhat and County Councillor Sarah Hohler for support on getting the following points addressed and to request a virtual or site meeting.
 - a) Mature evergreen trees over 11 metres high to be planted to provide screening
 - b) Colour of the bridge – could it be painted green or brown so it fits in better with its surroundings
 - c) Significant planting to the scrub area adjacent to the bridge where trees have been removed/died
 - d) To consider installing a modesty board or some other form of screening on the ramp which to also assist with overlooking
 - e) Assess and address any light filtration issues on the gantry.
- 5] Smart Motorway – Members noted that the recent overnight closure of the M20 for the works to the replacement footbridge had meant more lorries travelling along the A20 causing further damage.
- 6] Waste Collection – review of new arrangements – The Clerk has reported the problem with bins not being collected in Sandy Lane when roadworks were in place. T&MBC has advised that they do liaise with KCC on roadworks and do try and inform the rubbish collection crews. The Clerk to contact Waste Services at T&MBC to obtain information on the rebates to be offered for poor service.
- 7] Proposal to consider employing a lengthsman – Members discussed the idea of employing a part time lengthsman whose role could include grass cutting, litter picking, drain clearance and the duties of a general handyman for the Parish Council. Members were in agreement that the village has always relied heavily on a volunteer network but that this support seems to be dwindling
 21:04hrs Cllr, Short temporarily took over as chair as Cllr. Garrett lost internet connection to the meeting
 Members expressed their concern that employing someone and paying for them out of the precept is in effect double taxation. The Clerk was asked to explore whether such services could be supplied by a company as opposed to employing someone and to gauge the reaction of neighbouring parishes to sharing such a role.
 21:08hrs Cllr. Garrett returned to the meeting as chair
- 8] Broadband in the village – The Clerk has contacted Callflow to see if they could assist with increasing broadband speeds in Addington by extending the cabling to reach many of the areas where the service is poor. The Clerk is waiting for a response
- 9] Vacancy on the Parish Council – Co-option – Cllr. Garrett asked Members to have a think about who they knew in the village who would be suitable and consider being a Parish Councillor.

10] KALC Community Award - Members **resolved** unanimously to adopt the Scheme again and to bring nominations to the next meeting. It was suggested that Mrs Audrey Reeves should be nominated for this award for her services to the community.

11] Calendar of Meetings 2021 – noted.

109/20] FINANCE

a) A statement as at 2 December 2020 was circulated:

Balances as at 2 December 2020:

Business Reserve Account	£ 28,652.45
Current Account	£ 466.71
National Savings Account:	£ 25,364.38

Receipts: None

<u>Supplier</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Cheque Number</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Mrs L S Goldsmith	(Salary - October)	2124	£ 561.30
HMRC	(Tax – October)	2125	£ 140.20
Mrs L S Goldsmith	(Expenses – November)	2126	£ 183.23
Fields in Trust	(Annual Membership)	2127	£ 65.00
PKF Littlejohn LLP	(External Audit)	2128	£ 360.00
Four Seasons	(Grounds Maintenance)	2129	£ 275.19
Addington Recreation Ground	(Mole catching)	2130	£ 40.00
The F A Bartlett Tree	(Oak tree maintenance)	2131	£ 216.00
Total			£1,840.92

Transfer from Business Review Account to Current Account: £1,850.00

b) Other matters:

1] Budget 2021/22 preparation - Cllrs. Garrett and Short have arranged to hold a virtual meeting with the Clerk on Wednesday 9 December 2020 at 2pm to discuss the budget and precept requirements for 2021/22. The Clerk to try and obtain some quotes for the grass cutting contract.

2] AGAR Approval 2019/2020 – Members noted that PKF Littlejohn LLP has signed off the AGAR for 2019/2020 and noted the External Auditor’s report. The Notice of Conclusion of Audit has been placed on the noticeboard.

c) Cheques for Signature – Approved

111/20] PLANNING

a) Applications:

21:14hrs Cllr. Chalk declared a pecuniary interest and did not comment on this proposal

1] TM/20/02381/FL – Woodpeckers, East Street, Addington, ME19 5DE

Part demolish the single storey extension. Erection of rear extension, front porch, raise the existing ridge height by 1.0m with a flat crown, dormer windows and rooflights to form first floor accommodation.

Construct a new driveway to the front of the property with permeable parking area and retaining walls.

Resolved: We note that many of our original objections have now been addressed so we have no objections to the proposed extension but remain concerned about access and request that a condition is set for this to be addressed so that the residents have access at all times including emergency vehicles.

21:16hrs Cllr, Chalk unmuted and re-joined the meeting

2] TM/20/02537 – 2 The Links, Addington, ME19 5RX

Demolition of existing garage and erection of two storey pitched side extension.

Resolved: We would like to comment that we are concerned about the effect of the size of the proposed extension on the general street scene

3] TM/20/02544/FL – 32 The Links, Addington, ME19 5RX

Single storey rear extension

Resolved: No objection

b) Applications received after distribution of the agenda: None received

c) Approvals

1] KCC/TM/0074 & 0075/2020– Wrotham Quarry

Details of revised restoration and aftercare pursuant to conditions 29, 37 and 40

d) Refusal: None to consider

e) Withdrawn applications: None to consider

f) Planning Appeals:

1] TM/20/00819/FL – Ivanhay, Sandy Lane, Wrotham Heath, TN15 7SB - Scarbutts, Winsor Works, London Road, Addington, ME19 5AN

Demolition of existing house/garage, construction of new house/garage and associated hard/soft landscaping

g) Other Matters

1] 16/00337/USEH - Jet Garage – The Clerk was asked to report to Enforcement that the car washing operations are operating outside the approved curtilage again.

2] 20/00030/USEH – Mayhill House, London Road, Addington – alleged unauthorised hardstanding and caravans – Enforcement met with the owners of the site and carried out inspections of the static caravan and chalet style building. The owners have been advised that both structures will require planning permission and have warned of potential enforcement action in the future.

3] 20/00032/USEH The Vineyard Restaurant, London Road, Addington – The owners exercised their right of appeal and lodged an enforcement notice appeal to the Planning Inspectorate on 21 July 2020. Enforcement has confirmed that the appeal is now underway and a site inspection by the Planning Inspector is to be arranged. The Clerk was asked to report to Enforcement that there is new area of hardstanding to the east of the car park and that the cottage to the western side of the vineyard, which has had several changes of use in recent years, now has a porch and an area of patio/concrete.

4] 20/00275/WORKH – Land East of B2015 and South of London Road, Addington – alleged unauthorised engineering works - Enforcement has made contact with the owners agent who has assured them that no further activities will take place. However, the site is being kept under observation. Enforcement is still looking into implications of the removal of the trees from the woodland and are discussing this case with the Landscape Officer. Enforcement is also preparing an Article 4 direction to remove certain permitted development rights. The Clerk was asked to write to Enforcement and state that Members are very disappointed with the speed of response from Enforcement which has resulted in an area of protected woodland being removed. Many trees on both the boundary and centre of the wood have been removed and Members asked the Clerk to find out if a felling licence should have been obtained. Members also asked for clarification on what permitted developments rights are being removed and what this actually means.

5] 26 The Clearway – the Clerk was asked to find out if recent works to convert the garage into accommodation required planning permission

112/20] HIGHWAYS:

a) Highways & PROW enquiries Outstanding:- (as at 2 December 2020)

1] Enquiry 484292 – verges in St Vincents Lane are being eroded. Following a meeting with the Highways Steward last month the following works have been arranged/carried out:

a) resurfacing to be carried out in the area where surface water collects at the entrance to the village hall car park and the area of edge erosion at the small bridge.

b) jobs raised for the surface defects noted along the length of the road that require action or will require action over the winter.

c) leaves and detritus to be removed to widen carriageway – this is the responsibility of T&MBC – need to flag this with them

d) A drainage gully has been uncovered along the road towards Southfields and that is currently clear and flowing

2] Enquiry 506566 - Breaking up of the road and trench appearing in vicinity of the Angel Inn and Park Road. *KCC has advised that works are programmed to take place to resurface the area, however the Highways Steward needs to apply for a Traffic Regulation Order. The Clerk was asked to find out when this will be applied for and find out why there has been a delay*

3] Enquiry 522629 – Drain cover on slip road from A20 to Ford Lane – *The Highways Steward has advised the drain cover needs to be replaced by Southern Water. KCC has contacted them on numerous occasions but it has not been replaced. The Clerk was asked to contact the Highway Steward to remind him that it has been several months since this was reported. The drain is covered in leaves and represents an accident hazard.*

4] Enquiry 524272 East Street – the Clerk to report that the hedges as you enter East Street are very overgrown and full of brambles. *KCC has attended and are programming works*

5] PROW 7145550 – footpath to the church gate, the wooden railing is also now down as well as the sign. *Cllr. Robinson kindly offered to carry out the repairs as it has been several months since this was reported to PROW*

6] Aldon Lane – broken drain cover – *works programmed*

7] Drains on the A20 – full of leaves and need dredging to avoid future flooding – *it was noted that the drains have recently been cleared on the western side of the village*

8] Addington Lane – The Highways Steward has heard back from the drainage team who have been out to inspect the culvert on Addington Lane and are going to make contact with the land owner to have the ditch dug and then jet the culvert under the carriageway to make sure it is clear.

b) New requiring attention

1] Addington Lane – the Clerk mentioned to the Highways Steward that there has recently been a lot of mud on the road from the quarry. The Highways Steward spoke to Ferns about the sand/mud dropping onto the road and they are now running a sweeper along the carriageway to keep it clean. Members were pleased to hear that Ferns are acting responsibly in cleaning the road but asked the Clerk to advise them that more daily cleans are required as the road continues to be very muddy

c) Other matters:

1] Big Conversation Update – No update.

2] School bus issues with children crossing the A20 – see item (107/20 – a)

3] Warning sign on A20 approaching junction with Trottscliffe Road – KCC has advised the Clerk that they understand and appreciate Members concerns for the safety of this junction and want to assure the Parish Council that safety is key to their decision making, however, Vehicle Activated Signs are non-safety critical assets and with limited resources KCC have to prioritise schemes that meet the safety criterion. This means that KCC do not have a budget allocation to fund an automatic replacement for the sign removed in July. KCC has suggested that funding via third party sources is possible. The Clerk was asked to contact KCC again and explain that this sign is a safety critical asset and that the Parish Council is expecting it to be replaced to prevent a repeat of fatal accidents that happened in the past.

4] Redundant highways – The Clerk is waiting for the Highways Steward to confirm who owns the road adjacent to the Jet Garage. The Highways Steward has agreed to speak with his line manager about the ownership of the road from North East Street down to the village green which needs clearing. The Clerk was asked to advise the Highways Steward that the replacement footbridge at East Street enables people with mobility issues to now cross the motorway and reach the village green but that they cannot then exit from the other side as this road is blocked with vegetation.

5] KCC Parish Seminar 2020 - The Clerk attended the virtual seminar held on the 17 November. KCC Highways has two big projects in hand to try and improve the service.

Adept live labs - Centralised Decision Intelligence Making - a new way of collecting data on trouble spots around the County. KCC has succeeded in obtaining grant funding for this project. The aim is to fit cameras on, for example, buses which will record information on pot holes and other highway issues on major routes. Sensors are to be placed in gulleys and drains in

known flooding hot spots which will give information to ensure that they are drained and cleared before it becomes a problem. This is going to take a few years for all this to happen but it will be a huge improvement and will actually save resources as KCC will not have to respond to emergencies and continuous online and telephone enquiries.

Kent Digital - KCC is working on how to improve the portal for reporting faults and on the information given out when works have taken place. KCC will also be introducing a mobile app for fault reporting. KCC is keen to improve all communication on fault reporting and works that are taking place.

Lorry Watch – Many rural parishes are suffering with lorries using lay-bys. It was agreed that this topic will be an agenda item at the next seminar due to be held January/February 2021

Drainage - Many parishes are suffering with flooding on the roads. The Drainage team is working hard to cleanse major gulleys but often the problem is to do with poor drainage on private land adjacent to the road such as in Addington Lane where water is coming off the fields and flooding the road and all they can do is keep pestering the landowner to do something. The information from Live Labs when this is up and running will also help them identify and maintain top hot spots. At the moment several residents will all report the same problem either online or by phoning the call centre. Individual jobs are raised and may be assigned to different officers so duplication is taking place. The 'intelligence' they will get from the new system will prevent this duplication.

Utility Companies - KCC Highways is not allowed to refuse them to work and they do not need to inform local residents. KCC agree that they are slow to remove the road closure/diversion signs after the work is completed but this is because the utility companies are poor at communicating with them.

113/20| REPORTS OF MEETINGS:

- a) Village Hall Committee – Cllr. Robinson reported that motorbikes have been spotted again in the village hall car park which the riders seem to be using as a base. All registrations noted have been handed over to the police. The Clerk was asked to contact Ferns to see if the motorbikes have been spotted in the quarry. The village hall has received grants this year to support its finances. The nursery school attempted to re-open but had to close. Members remain concerned about the financial status of the village hall given that a number of the committee intend to stand down next year.
- b) Recreation Ground Committee – Cllr. Robinson reported that works are in progress to tidy up the hedges and prune trees on the recreation ground. The issue with vermin has been sorted and works to repair the damaged cabling are in hand. The Recreation Ground Committee has also received grants this year to support its finances.
- c) Parish Partnership Panel – Cllr. Adams attended the virtual meeting held on the 12 November 2020. The minutes of the meeting have been circulated. Climate changes and the pandemic were hot topics. Of interest is the fact that some parishes are applying directly to developers hoping to build in their village for funding in addition to the S106 monies.
- d) Standards Committee – There has been no meeting
- e) KALC Area Committee – Cllr. Short attended the virtual AGM held on the 28 November 2020. A key message is that KALC would like to see more Parish Councils engage in the learning development programme and have a formalised plan on learning requirements. Members were encouraged to look at the training courses offered in the Parish News and on the KALC website which are currently being held virtually.

114/20| OPEN SPACES:

1] New Service Pipe Addington Green – Members ratified a decision between meetings to allow SGN Connections lay new gas pipework under a small section of the road around the green for the new dwelling at Overlea Cottage, Addington Green subject to the road being made good after the works have been completed.

2] Lost footpaths – The Clerk has circulated some information on the work of the Ramblers Association who is trying to identify lost footpaths before 2026 which is a deadline set by the government. It is not clear that any ‘lost’ footpaths are in Addington so Members agreed to not financially support this project.

3] Moles on the village green – Cllr. Robinson reported that a further instance of moles on the village green has been dealt with.

115/20] CORRESPONDENCE:

a) For information:-

1] Area 2 Planning Committee – 9 December 2020 (Cancelled)

2] Joint Transportation Board – 8 March 2021

3] Parish Partnership Panel – 4 February 2021

4] Standards Committee – 12 January 2021

5] KALC Area Meeting – 10 December 2020

b) On circulation (electronically): -

1] Parish News – November 2020

c) New requiring attention:

Census 2021 – details circulated on key dates for the next Census

116/20 ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

117/20] ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING:

Census 2021

Proposal to reduce the speed limit in East Street

Tree Warden Training Course

Ash trees on south side of A20 – are they replanting.

118/20] DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING:

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 6 January 2021 at 8pm.

119/20 ANY CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS:

There was none.

The meeting was closed at 22.00 hrs

Signed _____ Chairman Date _____